

# CURRENT LITERATURE.

## BOOK REVIEWS.

### Guide to garden plants.<sup>1</sup>

THE intention of the writer has been to produce a book which will be of use to amateurs and also to those engaged professionally in horticulture. It deals with the description, cultivation, and propagation of the better known flowers, fruits, and vegetables suitable for growing in the British Islands. The subjects discussed are of such a comprehensive nature that it is quite impossible to expect that even a few of them should be treated in an exhaustive way within the limits of a single volume. A commendable feature—absent in other books on this subject—is a chapter devoted to the life history of plants, which is given in such a manner as to be readily understood by those not versed in technical language. The chapter on the description, cultivation, and propagation of the hardy fruits best suited to the climate of Great Britain gives little help to those in quest of such information in this country. Nearly a thousand pages are devoted to the description of the common plants in cultivation. The plants are arranged in their natural orders, cultural details are given in the majority of cases, and in this part of the work there is a similarity to what is found in the dictionaries of Paxton, Johnson, Nicholson, and Bailey. There is, of course, much in the book which will interest American readers; but, having been written for garden lovers in another part of the world, it would be a dangerous one to put in the hands of the uninitiated in this country, where not only the cultural details differ, but the species and varieties recommended as best would, in very many instances, be entirely unsuited to the conditions existing here.—G. W. OLIVER.

### NOTES FOR STUDENTS.

ROSTOWZEW recommends two methods for drying plants which blacken readily.<sup>2</sup> One consists in using between the plants single layers of absorbent cotton 2<sup>cm</sup> thick, covered with tough tissue paper, in a wire press, placed in a warm place. The other uses a perforate metal cylinder, to be covered with plants between sheets of filter paper held in place by a muslin jacket. The cylinder is covered with a lid and placed over a lamp. The plants dry in an hour or so.—C. R. B.

<sup>1</sup> WEATHERS, JOHN: A practical guide to garden plants and best kinds of fruits and vegetables. Large 8vo. pp. xii+1192. *figs.* 163. New York City: Longmans, Green, & Co., 1901.

<sup>2</sup> *Flora* 88: 473-478. 1901.